

MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP

Success Stories from the Field

Philosophy Inc. / Biotech Research Laboratories

Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Philosophy-Biotech, Inc. Achieves Cost Savings with Lean Manufacturing

Client Profile:

Philosophy-Biotech, Inc develops, manufactures and markets a full line of personal care products focused on skin care, fragrance, bath and body care, and color cosmetics. Philosophy-Biotech employs 75 people at its facility in Phoenix, Arizona.

Situation:

Philosophy-Biotech's Executive VP of supply chain, Paul Hill, wanted to increase efficiencies and capacity at his company. Hill contacted the Arizona Manufacturing Extension Partnership (AZMEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, to assist in the training and implementation of Lean Manufacturing.

Solution:

AZMEP provided a Lean Manufacturing workshop for six key leaders from Philosophy-Biotech. The workshop provided the necessary training around Lean Manufacturing fundamentals and stimulated the team's desire to reduce wastes and start making some changes as to how things were done in the factory. The identified area of opportunity was reducing changeover time in the bottle filling lines. The area belongs to the production group, which is the largest group in the organization; therefore, impact could be significantly visible across the company. The timing was appropriate because it would leverage the momentum of changes already taking place in this area. AZMEP partnered with Profero, Inc to facilitate a Quick Changeover Kaizen event. Ten employees representing the company's production, compounding, quality and maintenance groups attended the event. The cross-functional, empowered team focused on reducing overall changeover downtime during product filling job changes. The five-day event covered fundamental training, current state review and documentation, brainstorming, implementation and documentation of new state, data and cost analysis.

Results:

- * Realized \$1 million in cost savings.
- * Reduced changeover time from 3.2 hours to 1.6 hours.

Testimonial:

"The events proved to be a success as it started a lot of people in the organization thinking of their own situation in their own departments. Both projects initiated in the manufacturing area came up with solutions and changes that were practical and sustainable."

Jesse Evangelista, Director of Manufacturing